

REMARKS

The Related Applications Section of the Specification has been amended to reflect the foreign priority claim to Argentina Application No. P19980101144, filed March 13, 1998, which was made in the Declaration filed on March 10, 1999 with the parent application

Pending Claims 7; 14; 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or § 103 based upon Buchanan (US 6,074,418).

Buchanan does not teach or suggest a system comprising a prosthesis body sized and configured for introduction into a blood vessel lumen and including a wall defining an interior passage for blood, and means for radially expanding the wall of the prosthetic body into contact with the blood vessel lumen. In Buchanan, the outer orifice ring 14 is preformed, and Buchanan does not include means for radially expanding the ring 14.

Furthermore, the earliest possible priority date that Buchanan is entitled to is April 20, 1998. The instant application is entitled to a priority date of March 13, 1998, which predates Buchanan. Buchanan is therefore not prior art to the instant application.

The Related Applications Section of the application has been amended to reflect the earlier claim of priority.

Applicant believes the case is in condition for allowance.

Allowance of claims 7; 14; and 15 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

By



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